

A
POSTSCRIPT

TO THE

REPLY

TO

Mr. JOHN PARKINSON,

ON THE

WELTON INCLOSURE.

BOSTON:

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THE REPLY.

POSTAGE

REPLY

MR. JOHN PARK WOOD

WILSON INCLOSURE

POSTAGE

PAID BY THE POSTAGE

And in the name of the Lord and of the Holy Spirit
I have signed this letter and have placed
thereon the seal of the Holy Spirit
THE SEAL

A
POSTSCRIPT

TO THE
REPLY.

-o—o-

MANY of my neighbours, I am aware, may think, that too much has already been said upon the Welton Inclosure. But as there is not ONE of them, whose good opinion I slight; as there is not ONE, from whose mind I should not wish to obliterate any unfavourable impression made by Mr. Parkinson's **FALSE** and **MALICIOUS** assertions; and as the extraordinary, and unprecedented mode of conducting the business has been *since* made known to me;—

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therefore

therefore when I add this postscript to my reply to Mr. Parkinson,—I trust they will believe, that next to the satisfying of my own conscience, to be well thought of by my NEIGHBOURS, is the wish nearest to my heart.

It appears, that on Tuesday the 16th of October, 1792, Mr. Parkinson and Mr. Garrard valued Boothby. On Wednesday the 17th, Mr. Parkinson and Mr. Garrard valued Hanby, Twhaite, and a part of the High-field. On Wednesday the 17th of October, actually conducted thither by the light of a candle in a lantern, Mr. Hudson came and slept at Boothby. On Thursday the 18th of October, in the morning, Mr. Parkinson and Mr. Hudson looked over a PART of Boothby, and then the THREE commissioners together valued the REMAINDER of the fields and old-inclosed

closed lands at Welton, and on that day dined at Spilsby.

Within two months, (viz.) on the 15th of December, 1792, from these views, the calculations were made and the exchanges and allotments were fixed.

This statement was, some time since, given by me to the solicitor; and I desired him to lay it before Mr. Parkinson and Mr. Hudson; observing that I did not contend with them about words and dates; but only wished a fair honest investigation into things and facts; and I requested Mr. Parkinson and Mr. Hudson to correct whatever part of it was erroneous. Having received no answer from the solicitor, or either of the commissioners, I conclude that the above statement is accurate.

Both the Welton fields were cropped in the year 1792. It was the last year
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the farmers would have a field in common. All kinds of cattle, and in no small number, were put into the fields, which were trampled to an unusual degree. The fields being in this state in the month of October, and not one acre then turned up by the plough, a valuation was made from a single view of two commissioners. One of these two commissioners, upon a review of all the allotments, before the harvest in 1795, stated to Mr. Parkinson immediately by letter, "that to his astonishment he found as good or better crops upon land valued at 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 shillings per acre, as upon lands valued at 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16 shillings per acre; and called upon Mr. Parkinson, by the most solemn obligation, to view the crops himself, and to have the error rectified," making use of these strong terms,

terms, "that the world might not say, that we, the Welton commissioners, have acted like FOOLS or ROGUES."

The allotments were looked over in June, July, and August, 1796, when they were in full cropping. All these views have only tended to confirm the truth of Mr. Garrard's statement to Mr. Parkinson.

The high and low fields consisted nearly of an equal number of acres. I have told Mr. Parkinson there are intelligent farmers who say,—“lease the whole of the high and low field at the same rent per acre, and they would prefer the high field, as land more convertible to uses generally profitable.”—How can this be reconciled to any thing like his printed valuations of both the fields at Welton? If, upon fair inquiry,
any

any thing like this is truly the FACT, has not Mr. Parkinson, ERRONEOUSLY, taken the best land to be the worst, and the worst land to be the best?

In two large allotments, competent judges are of opinion that Mr. Parkinson will find it difficult TO PROVE, in the intrinsic average worth, that the one he has valued at 12s. and 7d. per acre is better than the other, which he has valued at 8s. and 2d. per acre.

Above half the high field is in one allotment. In that allotment 35 acres average 10s. and 3d. and 133 acres 7s. and 7½d. per acre. One hundred and sixty eight acres of land—(land of various qualities and adapted to various culture)—ascertained at ONE VIEW, IN THE MONTH OF OCTOBER to be of a certain precise value, neither more nor less

less by a penny—nay, a half-penny per acre! If this does not raise a smile, it must at least astonish and surprise?

There are many who do not pretend to claim intuitive knowledge like this; therefore I request Mr. Parkinson to reconcile his valuation of 168 acres at 10s. and 3d. and 7s. and 7½d. per acre, not only with his valuations of the remaining part of the high field, but with the WHOLE likewise of the low field; and we shall then see, whether the lands he valued at 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 shillings per acre, do not approach near, in their intrinsic worth, to the lands he has valued at 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16 shillings per acre.—I aver that they do.

The manor and estate at Twhaite are now thought to be worth 2400l. Is it unreasonable in the guardians of Miss

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Massingberd

Massingberd to say, that, in their opinion, she is injured by this exchange; till Mr. Parkinson shall prove, by disinterested respectable testimony, that the 62 acres tithe-free, of open field land, ring-fenced (for Miss Massingberd paid for that in her tithe-allotment) and subdivided at her expence, with 23 acres of old inclosure, in nine separate inclosures, subject to a corn-rent in lieu of tithe, are a full compensation for the manor and estate at Twhaite, consisting of 94 acres of old inclosed land, subject to a corn-rent in lieu of tithe of 1s. and 8d. per acre?

Mr. Parkinson must not be permitted to insinuate, as a FACT "that only one proprietor at Welton was put to the expence of building barns and conveniences for the accommodation of tenants; or that the distance from the old homesteads

homesteads is much greater, or more inconvenient only in one allotment; or that the expence of ring-fencing to other proprietors is not in proportion to the value of the lands allotted."

Mr. Parkinson, Mr. Hudson, or a Hireling Letter-Writer, may insinuate, that the proprietors in general are fully satisfied with the allotments and the comparative worth of the lands at Welton.—Let them call a MEETING of all the proprietors, and let us see, at such meeting, whether there will be found ONE, who will seriously declare (from what he knows or from what he has heard of the Welton inclosure) that he believes there are not material errors; or let us see, at such meeting, whether there are not many, who will seriously declare "that they believe themselves to be materially injured?"

Mr. Hudson, surely, does not think the whole country can have so far lost their senses, as to suppose that a few acres of land, manured with the dung of cattle fed upon oil-cakes, can be talked into much consequence; or that it could have upon intelligent, impartial judges, any material influence. If Mr. Hudson had fairly informed himself of the quantity of GOOD COMMON MANURE laid upon contiguous allotments, he might have been PUZZLED in proving (for agricultural purposes) that the QUANTITY of the one did not exceed the QUALITY of the other; or had Mr. Hudson but seen the crops upon land in the high-field adjoining to the Claxby road, to which there has been carried for years, or I might say, for ages, little or no MANURE; he must be ashamed of the flimsy plea, so often
made

made by Mr. Parkinson and himself—
 “that superior management only in one
 instance has caused the difference in
 the present value of the allotments at
 Welton.” For what will Mr. Hudson
 answer, when he is told, that this very
 plot of above 16 acres (which, taking
 the average of the allotment at 8s. and
 2d. cannot have been valued at more
 than 6 shillings per acre) has produced,
 WITHOUT MANURE, a better crop of
 WHEAT and SEEDS, than lands va-
 lued by Mr. Parkinson at 16 shillings
 per acre.

Unfounded, or general SLANDER,
 is too often the traffick of hireling writ-
 ers. Whether this be a volunteer or a
 hireling writer, I will just mention,
 AMONGST MANY, one notable instance
 of his unfounded slander:—He says,
 “that I opposed the commissioners
 draining

draining Miss Massingberd's lands, under the dreadful idea, that it would issue the Gunby waters too hastily upon the Boothby Estate;”—Whereas, in truth, the Gunby waters, in their course to the sea, do not go near the Boothby estate;—and, at my particular interposition, and direction to the constables of Orby and Welton, an extensive sewer HAD BEEN CLEANSED, and a brick tunnel, across a high-way, HAD BEEN ENLARGED, for the sole purpose of draining MORE EFFECTUALLY, Miss Massingberd's Welton-field allotments.

By subscribing his name to the letter in question, Mr. Parkinson has ADOPTED it as his own. Therefore as a man of business, as a man of principle, I call upon him to lay aside assertion, and to PROVE the statements in that letter, which

which relate both personally to me, and to his valuations of the lands at Welton.

I trust the liberal, candid reader will not impute to me any great impropriety, when I consider these valuations as chiefly the valuations of Mr. Parkinson only. From the above statements it appears, that one of the commissioners did not see even ONCE, many of the lands before the calculations were made, and the allotments and exchanges were fixed. The other commissioner candidly acknowledged, that he was self-convicted there was an error, and refused to sign such an award. Mr. Parkinson too is the only commissioner who attended all the meetings, and the only commissioner who roundly asserts "that errors do not exist in the valuations and allotments at Welton."

I can inform Mr. Parkinson, there are some who think, it would have been

no

no great violation either of decency or propriety, or justice, if, instead of signing an award within a few hours after Miss Massingberd's commissioner had sent in his reasons, IN WRITING, why he refused to act, he had attended both to the spirit and letter of the act of parliament, and, within one month, had appointed another commissioner. Miss Massingberd would then have been represented.

About 700 acres have been inclosed, and the money already paid to the treasurer, as I believe, is about £1200; for, having been refused a sight of the accounts, I cannot speak with accuracy.*

If the act of parliament had been drawn up under my directions, as Mr.

Parkinson

* The quantity of fencing under the direction of the commissioners is not so great as might have been expected; and their surveyor told me, that less than 70l. had been expended on the roads.

Parkinson and Mr. Hudson are pleased to insinuate, I can truly tell them, that every MATERIAL PROCEEDING of theirs would have been amenable to the decision of a Jury at the Quarter-Sessions in the face of all our neighbours.

From the 15th of December, 1792, the allotments and exchanges have been looked over nearly 20 times. Judges of land, not inferior to Mr. Parkinson, have viewed them at various seasons. That there are material errors in the comparative valuations, not a doubt has been yet suggested by ONE disinterested person. When Mr. Parkinson, therefore, comes forward and boldly asserts in print,—“that errors do not exist in the valuations and allotments at Welton;”—and yet for very near four years refuses to bring forward DISINTERESTED RESPECTABLE TESTIMONY in proof of assertions, repugnant to the sense of
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those who have viewed, of those who have occupied, and all those who have known the lands in question for a series of years,—surely this is to avail himself, **ONLY**, of the letter of an act of parliament, and, **CAUTIOUSLY**, to avoid **THAT FAIR IMPARTIAL INQUIRY, WHICH HAS BEEN EVER CONSIDERED AS THE TEST OF TRUTH?**—Nay is it not to confound right and wrong, and to demolish the first barriers of civil society?

Mr. Parkinson's assertions must be looked upon with a jealous eye.—He **ASSERTED**, that the three commissioners were **unanimous** in their opinions of the comparative worth of the lands at Welton, at the very time when he had **ANSWERED** a letter from one of the commissioners, pointedly declaring,—**"that the very reverse was his opinion."** And I will now calmly appeal to himself,

self, whether by that violation of truth he did not subvert the very intention of a meeting, and thereby suppress an inquiry, which might have given to US ALL our just claims?

If ever Mr. Parkinson shall bring forward disinterested respectable testimony, and IT SHOULD APPEAR, that Miss Massingberd and my Son are injured to the amount of a THOUSAND POUNDS by the present award, our solicitor must then feelingly lament, that the rights of his clients have not been duly attended to; and that an inquiry did not take place before such an award was signed. For though Mr. Parkinson and Mr. Hudson may sculk behind the letter of an act of parliament, yet if a material error could have been pointed out to the two commissioners, within one hour before the award was
D.2 signed,

signed, your solicitor must acknowledge that this error ought to have been rectified.

ED. WALLS.

Spilsby,

October 8th, 1796.

On Wednesday the 16th of December, 1795, the three commissioners met at Spilsby. The following petition was immediately presented to them.

Mr. Garrard staid with his colleagues till Thursday the 17th at noon. When he found, that the prayer of the petition was not to be granted, he refused any longer to act, left the room, and sent in a note, that he could not sign such an award with a clear conscience, and went home. The same NIGHT the award was signed by Mr. Parkinson and Mr. Hudson.

The

THE PETITION.

To Mr. John Parkinson, Mr. John Hudson, and Mr. Richard Garrard, commissioners for inclosing the parish of Welton in the Marsh.

As the exchanges of the manor and lands at Twhaite were agreed upon before the inclosure-act passed, the Guardians of Miss Massingberd will not hear of a separation of the manor from the estate, and to rectify the error (not of Miss Massingberd's Guardians) in not putting the manor into the first deed of exchange, have executed a second.

The exchange now stands thus. The manor and estate at Twhaite, consisting of 94 acres of old inclosed land (subject to a corn-rent in lieu of tithe) are given for 24 acres of inclosed land
subject

(subject to a corn-rent in lieu of tithe) in 9 separate inclosures, and 61 acres of open field land (tithe free) to be inclosed by Miss Massingberd.

The Guardians of Miss Massingberd from the judgement of those well-versed in the value of the lands and manor of Twhaite, have the strongest grounds to believe,

That such an exchange is not an equivalent.

Mr. Walls and the Guardians of Miss Massingberd think,

That the comparative valuations of the allotments are erroneous.

They think,

That the quantity and quality of lands allotted to proprietors are not in proportion to their claims.

For

For these reasons Mr. Walls and the Guardians of Miss Massingberd protest against the proposed award; and now petition the commissioners before the award is executed, ONLY for a fair, honest, impartial INQUIRY or REDRESS from the COMMISSIONERS THEMSELVES.

If any allotment is too small, let it be added to.

If any allotment is too large, let it be diminished.

ED. WALLS,

For Miss Massingberd and Self.

16th December,

1795.

At

Wells 16th Dec. 95

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As no redress can be obtained from the two Commissioners, I shall take the liberty of asking the Solicitor whether or no Mr. Hudson (who certainly never viewed all the lands*) can legally support Mr. Parkinson's award? Mr. Garrard having refused to sign it,—“that the World might not say, that we, the Welton Commissioners, have acted like Fools and Rogues.”

* See Page 4

THE END.